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Today's Weather.

Western Oregon and Washington—Wednesday, generally fair, except occasional rain, except along north coast.

Eastern Oregon, continued fair weather.

Eastern Washington, partly cloudy and occasionally threatening.

NORMAL SCHOOL GRAFT.

There seems to be an abnormal propensity among certain members of the legislature to regard a public office as a private snap, and that their only mission in representing their constituents, is to graft off from the state. This is exemplified in the Normal school graft which has been so conspicuous in every session of the legislature.

One normal school in the state is sufficient for all requirements in educating teachers, and no one will object to supporting the one institution. But when it comes to supporting three high schools under the euphonious title of normal schools, the taxpayers rebel.

Another graft to which the people object is the appropriations made for building additions, buying new apparatus and employing more professors. None of these are needed. The present educational institutions are ample for all present needs, and very dollar secured for alleged betterments are grafts pure and simple.

ADAMIC EXCUSE.

The tragedy at Detroit two days ago, in which a prominent man of that place shot himself and a woman, then leaped out of the 11th story of an office building to his death, bears one of the early familiar features of similar cases which, from time to time, occupy the columns of the press.

Here is the old Adamic excuse, bedragged and feeble from world-old use: "The woman whom Thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." Man with his broad shoulders and mighty muscles, his mind which compasses the wisdom of his own world and leaps the interstellar spaces and his will which beats down mountains and shackles torrents, still throws the blame on the frail frame of the "weaker sex," when he hears the footsteps of exposure walking through the gardens of conventionality at noonday.

It is not high time that the creature who arrogates the title of the "superior" sex, assume the burden of his

own moral lapses, instead of dropping it on the shoulders of her that has credulously eaten the bread of his love only to find it husks? He boasts his prowess in all the fields of human endeavor, he glibly quotes "he that ruleth his own spirit is stronger than he that taketh a city," he peers at the poor weakling who cannot free himself from the livery of failure or drink—then is willing to admit or rather assert that when tempted by little frail woman, his courage and resistance "oozes out of his finger tips like wine from an ill-coppered cask."

There is, of course, no disputing the fact that in sporadic instances the woman has been the temptress and the man the innocent, helpless victim—it nearly approached that condition in Shakespeare's "Venus and Adonis." Even in cases of this nature when man feels his conscience and his virtuous resolves melting beneath the weight of his baser nature there is the open course of retreat, honorable, praiseworthy, judicious retreat for both himself and the woman—a fact which he thankfully realizes which infected him has left him sane and responsible. How much more often, however, are the circumstances reversed and the sad, somber drama of Tarquin and Lucrece enacted in real life?

The man, almost from childhood, is thrown into intimate contact with the world. He knows its "pitfalls and its gins," and he realizes fully the moral, social and individual stigma resting on both parties to such lapses. The woman, carefully sheltered, knows less of these things. The seamy side is hidden from her eyes, and she has not the weapons of defense which observation and experience have placed in reach of the man. And yet, in the conscious possession of his superior knowledge he can bring her forward as the guilty party, painting her in the old role of the serpent that he may screen himself from criticism and disaster. It is not specially savory, but better for the traditional reply of a certain royal celebrity to the question of his course should a woman's reputation or happiness be endangered, when he said, "I would like like a gentleman."

When people challenge certain firmly established laws of religion and society, laws made to preserve the integrity and purity of the race, and for the development of the nobler side of character, they must inevitably expect keen suffering and harsh criticism.

But the man in such a plight will never gain the sympathy or extenuation of his neighbors, or even the approval of his own manhood, when he seeks to shift the blame to the frail shoulders of the woman by a confession that his own strength did not furnish him the power to flee the present evil.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

Epitome of Anecdotes and Incidents With Comments by a Layman.

In Aberdeen companies applying for a telephone franchise pay \$500 for them as an evidence of good faith. They ought to be worth more in Astoria.

It will be an accommodation if some Astoria people arrange to celebrate their birthday during the summer season so they can go to Seaside.

Some idea of the rigor of the winter in Germany may be gathered from the fact that one man in Munich has stolen 44 overcoats.

The majority of the Missouri legislator persists in support of the theory that it is better to indict the prominent citizen prior to his election to the United States senate.

A prominent Astoria man advises a strong man for head of the police force, but there are statesmen who know political jiu jitsu that makes the strong man look like little Lord Fauntleroy.

The North Sea commission apparently feels that fishermen have no business getting near a lot of warships on which every morning is the morning after.

The country is advised to be patient in view of the fact that the digging of the Panama canal is proceeding more rapidly than could be expected toward the beginning of the preliminaries.

Stoessel is charged with cowardice; the czar with moral weakness and stupidity; the grand dukes with cruelty and tyranny; Gripenberg with insubordination and Kuropatkin with inefficiency. The list is long, but most of the charges seem to be supported by the evidence of events.

It is not yet quite plain whether Buffalo Bill's divorce case is a scandal or an advertisement.

Secretary Noonan of the Longshoremen's union has received a message from McGugan that the Russian fleet will come to Astoria to coal before proceeding to Vladivostok.

THE LAST CHANCE

Jury Will View the Remains of Local Option.

QUESTION OF JURISDICTION

Did Hendrickson Sell Liquor in the Front Part of the Saloon or in the Rear, and Is the Saloon in the Limits of Astoria?

The case against John Hendrickson, charged with a violation of the local option law, occupied the attention of the circuit court all day yesterday. When the first witness was put on the stand the attorneys for Hendrickson raised the question of jurisdiction. It is contended that the Last Chance saloon is not within the corporate limits of the city of Astoria, nor within the boundary described in the petition for local option.

The petition described the precinct as being bound by low water mark of the Columbia river, when it is contended by the defendant's attorney that the tide goes at least 50 feet south of the rear end of the saloon, and if this is a fact, it does not come within the prescribed limits of the boundary line of the city.

The state contends that the tide come to about the center of the saloon, and if this contention is true, the question arises, did Hendrickson sell liquor in the front end of the saloon, or the rear end? If he sold it in the front end he has not violated the law. In order to settle this question the court adjourned at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon to enable the jury to visit the premises, which they will do at 9 o'clock this morning. The whole case rests on this question. If the court has no jurisdiction, he will instruct the jury, which will bring in a verdict of not guilty.

If the defendant is acquitted, he can go ahead and sell liquors, but whether the city will have any jurisdiction to issue a license, or whether it must be procured from the county under the old law, and does the local option repeal the old law, are questions for further consideration. The case is attracting considerable attention and several ladies are present, presumably to show their interest in the result of the trial.

A NOTED WOMAN

COUSIN OF LATE U. S. PRESIDENT ZACHARY TAYLOR.

76 Years of Age, Recommends Vinol for Old People.

Mrs. Sarah J. Windrom of 429 W. Erie St., Chicago, a member of one of the most distinguished families in the country, cousin of Zachary Taylor, 12th President of the U. S., and grandniece of Alexander Hamilton, who signed the Declaration of Independence, writes:

"Vinol is a godsend to old people. I am 76 years old, but I feel active and well today, thanks to the vitalizing effects of Vinol.

"My appetite is all that could be desired. I sleep well and my mind is clear, and I am interested in the affairs of life as I was 50 years ago.

"When I was young cod liver oil was dispensed in a greasy, unpalatable form, and it fairly gagged me to get it down. Vinol is so different, palatable and nourishing to impoverished blood.

"I feel so much stronger, both mentally and physically, since I used Vinol that I feel it my duty, as well as a pleasure, to recommend Vinol as the finest tonic I ever used in my life."

Such words of praise from a person of such high standing must be accepted as unquestionable proof of the superiority of Vinol.

Do you wonder that our Vinol has such a strong hold upon the esteem of doctors and patients? We know of nothing else that will accomplish such wonderful results; and, remember, Vinol is not a patent medicine.

There are hundreds of old people in this vicinity who need just such a strength-maker and tissue-builder as Vinol. Their blood is thin and sluggish—Vinol will enrich and quicken the blood and build up the system. It is so much better than whisky and strong stimulants, which always have a bad after effect and weaken and break down. There is nothing in the world so good for the weak, the aged or the run-down system and to cure a hanging on cold or hacking cough as Vinol, and because we know so well what it will do we are always ready to refund every cent paid us for it if it fails to do what we say. Try it on our guarantee. Chas Rogers, druggist.

EVERYBODY WINS! Everybody wins and no chance to lose when you buy one of those suits that we have placed on sale at A FEW DAYS ONLY. \$8.95 PER SUIT. A FEW DAYS ONLY. These suits are worth from \$13.50 to \$20.00 per suit, consequently in buying one you win from \$4.50 to \$11.00 on each suit. REMEMBER We guarantee each and every suit to give entire satisfaction or money refunded. See display in centre window. P. A. STOKES KEEPS A DRESSY SHOP FOR DRESSY MEN.

THE STAR THEATER. Astoria's Fashionable Vaudeville house in connection with Star and Arcade theaters of Portland. Change of Program Monday. Change of Acts Thursdays. MATINEE DAILY AT 2:45 P. M. MONSTER BILL. Week beginning February 27. Matinee daily at 2:45 p. m. THE HOFFMANS. In the original Madison Square Garden. CYCLE DAZZLE. Introducing the Champion Lady rider of the World. PATRONELLA D. ARVILLE. The Great Violinist. HOMES & HOMES. Presenting their big laughing success entitled Uncle Jonathan's Visit. ETHEL JACKSON. Coon Shouter. BOB KENYON. Singing Pictured Melodies "The Village Belle". Projectoscope will show the following subjects: Rock of Ages. On the Window Shade. Alphone and Gaston. The Dude and the Burglar. A Railroad Quick Lunch. A Nigger in the Wood Pile. A Kiss in the Dark. Admission 10 cents to any seat.

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